

8-2-122. Employment verification requirements - audits - fine for fraudulent documents - cash fund created - definitions.

(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Director" means the director of the division.

(b) "Division" means the division of labor in the department of labor and employment.

(c) "Employer" means a person or entity that:

(I) Transacts business in Colorado;

(II) At any time, employs another person to perform services of any nature; and

(III) Has control of the payment of wages for such services or is the officer, agent, or employee of the person or entity having control of the payment of wages.

(d) "Unauthorized alien" has the same meaning as set forth in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1324a (h) (3).

(2) On and after January 1, 2007, within twenty days after hiring a new employee, each employer in Colorado shall affirm that the employer has examined the legal work status of such newly hired employee and has retained file copies of the documents required by 8 U.S.C. sec. 1324a; that the employer has not altered or falsified the employee's identification documents; and that the employer has not knowingly hired an unauthorized alien. The employer shall keep a written or electronic copy of the affirmation, and of the documents required by 8 U.S.C. sec. 1324a, for the term of employment of each employee.

(3) Upon the request of the director, an employer shall submit documentation to the director that demonstrates that the employer is in compliance with the employment verification requirements specified in 8 U.S.C. sec. 1324a (b) and documentation that the employer has complied with the requirements of subsection (2) of this section. The director or the director's designee may conduct random audits of employers in Colorado to obtain the documentation. When the director has reason to believe that an employer has not complied with the employment verification and examination requirements, the director shall request the employer to submit the documentation.

(4) An employer who, with reckless disregard, fails to submit the documentation required by this section, or who, with reckless disregard, submits false or fraudulent documentation, shall be subject to a fine of not more than five thousand dollars for the first offense and not more than twenty-five thousand dollars for the second and any subsequent offense. The moneys collected pursuant to this subsection (4) shall be deposited in the employment verification cash fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury. The moneys in the fund shall be appropriated to the department of labor and employment for the purpose of implementing, administering, and enforcing this section. The moneys in the fund shall remain in the fund and not revert to the general fund or any other fund at the end of any fiscal year.

(5) It is the public policy of Colorado that this section shall be enforced without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity, national origin, or disability.

Source: L. 2006, 1st Ex. Sess.: Entire section added, p. 37, § 1, effective July 31.

Editor's note: Section 3 of House Bill 06S-1017 provides that the act shall take effect July 31, 2007, and shall apply to employees hired on or after January 1, 2007.

ANNOTATION

Law reviews. For article, "2006 Immigration Legislation in Colorado", see 35 Colo. Law. 79 (October 2006).